

The species has apparently heretofore been mistaken for *O. rosalina*, although the one is quite distinct from the other, especially so in general form, number of spiral whorls, and the non appearance in *O. Blanesi* of the rose colored base of the columella, which is seldom if ever absent in *O. rosalina*.

A fine suite of these shells has been in my collection for several years, unnamed. Though convinced that they were an undescribed species they remained neglected until I recently found in the fine collection of Mr. Francisco E. Blanes, late of Cuba, a large number of the same form mistakenly labelled *O. rosalina* Duclou. All, or nearly all of this entire lot had been collected by himself near Cardenas, Cuba. A brief explanation and comparison with genuine *O. rosalina* was sufficient to satisfy him of their distinct character, and the result is the new name, *Olivella Blanesi*.

Specimens entirely white, secured at the same locality might well be termed var. *alba*. Some suspicion that these colorless shells might be identical with *O. pura* or *O. bullula* as figured by Reeve being felt, specimens were submitted by a friend to Mr. E. R. Sykes of London for comparison with Reeve's types. To his kind assistance the following report is due: "I have compared your *Olivella* (with Mr. Smith's ever ready helping hand). It does not seem to be either *pura* or *bullula*. *Pura* may not be the actual type, as it is recorded by Reeve as in 'Mus. Metcalfe.' It is much more drawn out than your shell. The one specimen is in pretty good condition and seems never to have had much color marking, certainly not like yours. *O. bullula* here is snow white, but is thin and worn, so may have had some color. It is slightly more elongate and does not show the sinus that your species has in the columella. Very probably yours is new."

A figure will be given later.

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AN INTERROGATION IN REGARD TO SEPTIFER BIFURCATUS RVE.,  
AND MYTILUS BIFURCATUS CONR.

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BY MRS. M. BURTON WILLIAMSON.

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Shells that vary from the type sometimes raise a question in regard to the stability of their specific or generic values. Typical shells of *Septifer bifurcatus* Rve. and *Mytilus bifurcatus* Conr. are

unlike in the shape of their valves as well as in the presence or absence of a septum. Yet some shells of the latter resemble the former so closely that it is sometimes necessary to open each shell in order to distinguish one from the other. The approximation appears too close for not only a generic, but a subfamily distinction to be maintained between them. It appears to rest upon the presence or absence of a septum. A shell having the same shape as the typical *Mytilus bifurcatus* has, upon examination, revealed the deck or septum. On December 1, 1888, on one of the wooden piles of the old wharf at Santa Monica, Cal., I found shells of *Mytilus bifurcatus* in company with young examples of *Mytilus californianus* Conr., and some goose barnacles. One specimen was  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an inch from umbo to ventral margin, and in its widest part  $\frac{2}{3}$  of an inch. It was curved as in the type. There were three other shells, all like this one, only smaller. They were together and attached either by their own or the byssus of *M. californianus*. Three shells were opened and the absence of a septum noted. One specimen got broken and one was sent to another Los Angeles collector. In an exchange with Mr. W. J. Raymond, of Oakland, Cal., the one shell that had not been opened was sent to him, and I was surprised when he wrote that he had found a good-sized "deck in it!" They were all typical *Mytilus bifurcatus* in appearance.

My confidence in the constancy of the form of *Mytilus bifurcatus* was further shaken by receiving what appeared to be four young shells of *Septifer bifurcatus* that Mr. Raymond had received from San Diego. One of these was *without a deck*, and Mr. Raymond called my attention to it as a proof that *M. bifurcatus* could resemble, in shape, a *Septifer* more closely than a *Mytilus*. Here we have an illustration that a shell found among young *Septifers*, and their counterpart externally, is a *Mytilus bifurcatus*, and one shell, in form, that looks like a typical *M. bifurcatus*, proves to be a *Septifer*.

The San Diego examples from Mr. Raymond all have purple interiors, and the Santa Monica example has a white interior. But some shells, collected at one of the "Points" in Los Angeles County and sent for identification by Mrs. E. A. Lawrence, are also white in their interiors. But there is a marked difference between the Santa Monica *Mytilus* and those from the "Point" and San Diego in their outward appearance.

In order to determine the genus to which each belongs, the value

seems to rest upon the presence or absence of a septum. As this generic character may be present or absent in some of the shells found in the same place, an interrogation naturally arises as to the value to be placed upon the septum in separating approximate forms into two different subfamilies, the *Mytilinæ* and *Dreissensinæ*.

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NOTE ON SEPTIFER BIFURCATUS CONRAD.

BY H. A. PILSBRY AND W. J. RAYMOND.<sup>1</sup>

Among the shells brought home by Thomas Nuttall from his journey to the Pacific coast and the Hawaiian Islands, were specimens of a mussel which Conrad named *Mytilus bifurcatus*.<sup>2</sup> Two specimens of this species were presented by Nuttall to the Academy of Natural Sciences,<sup>3</sup> where they are still preserved.

Conrad gave the locality "Sandwich Is." for his species; but the specimens were probably from California. In the *Conchologia Iconica*, vol. 10, *Mytilus*, pl. 9, fig. 41 (1851), Reeve figures and describes a specimen from Cuning's collection as *Mytilus bifurcatus* Conrad, giving no locality. I do not know that the interior of this shell has been examined; but Nuttall's shells in the Academy collection prove to belong to the genus *Septifer*, having a well-developed septum or little deck across the apices of the valve cavities. There is no especial reason for believing Reeve's specimen to be a true *Mytilus*; but if they should be, the name *M. bifurcatus* Reeve cannot be retained, on account of the conflict with Conrad's prior *M. bifurcatus*.

As Mrs. Williamson's article (above) shows, Californian conchologists find two species excessively similar externally upon the Cali-

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<sup>1</sup> In placing Mr. Raymond's name with my own, it should be mentioned that he is directly responsible only for the passages placed in quotation marks; though indirectly for the positions taken in the remainder of the article.—*H. A. P.*

<sup>2</sup> Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, VII, 1834, p. 241, pl. 18, fig. 14.

<sup>3</sup> Neither of these shells seems to be the original of Conrad's figure, and probably that particular shell has been smashed and discarded, the specimens having been glued to a card and consequently exposed to such accidents. A nearly complete series of Nuttall's shells is in the Academy Collection, including some not described by Conrad.